(b) if so, the details of its composition and objectives;

(c) whether any meeting of the said Authority have been held; and

(d) if so, what has been the outcome of these meetings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) The Central Government by a Notification dated 20.02,2009, has set up the 'National Ganga River Basin Authority' (NGRBA) as an empowered planning, financing, monitoring and coordinating authority for the Ganga River, in exercise of the powers conferred under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The Prime Minister is the *ex-officio* Chairperson of the Authority, and it has as its members, the Union Ministers, concerned, and the Chief Ministers of the States through which Ganga flows, *viz*., Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal, besides experts. The functions of the Authority include all measures necessary for planning and execution of programmes for abatement of pollution and conservation of the river Ganga. The first meeting of the NGRBA was held on 5th October 2009. It was resolved that by the year 2020, it will be ensured that no untreated municipal sewage or industrial effluent flows into Ganga. The investment required to create the necessary treatment and sewerage infrastructure will be shared suitably between Centre and States after consultation with the States, Ministry of Finance and the Planning Commission.

Protection of forest areas

2640. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the methods adopted by Government to demarcate the forest areas to make them out of bound for mining, or protect them against illegal mining;

(b) whether Government has carried out any fresh forest survey to determine how much success has been achieved in plantation of trees over the years; and

(c) what is the area under the green cover at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The forest areas are normally demarcated by erecting permanent boundary pillars at appropriate points to segregate them from other areas. However, additional precaution is taken while according approval for mining in forest areas by invariably inserting following conditions:

i. The project area shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, using four feet high RCC pillars, with each pillar inscribed with the serial number, forward and backward bearings and distance between two adjacent pillars.

ii. Fencing, protection and regeneration of the safety zone area (7.5 metre strip all along the outer boundary of the mining lease area) shall be done at the project cost.

(b) The information is being collected from different sources and will be laid on the table of the House after collection and compilation of the same.

(c) As per India State of Forest Report, 2009, the total forest cover is 690.899 sq km, which is 21.02% of the total geographical area of the country.

Vehicular pollution

2641. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated amount of carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide etc. released to the atmosphere in the country duing each of the last three years due to vehicles;

(b) whether any prohibitive steps are proposed to be taken to protect the environment in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The Energy Research Institute, New Delhi has released a report in the year 2009 which has data on pollutants released in the atmosphere due to vehicular pollution in the country. The estimated amount released in the year 2007 is 04.28, 02.02, 01.83 and 0.25 (all figures in million tonnes) for the parameters of Carbon Mono-oxide (CO), Oxides of Nitrogen (NO_X), Hydro-carbon (HC) and Particulate Matter (PM) respectively.

The Centre for Ecological Studies, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, in its report "Emission from India's Transport Sector" has estimated the amount of Carbon Dioxide (CO_2) released in the year 2003-04 to be 243.82 million tonnes.

(b) to (d) The prohibitive steps taken to protect the environment are as under:

(i) Bharat Stage (BS) III emission norms for passenger cars and BS II norms for two wheelers in ten metro cities, namely, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad/Secunderabad, Kanpur, Pune, Surat and Agra apart from National Capital Region are implemented since 01.04.2005.

(ii) BS IV emission norms for passenger cars and B.S. III for two wheelers in above 10 metro cities apart from National Capital Region have been notified with effect from 01.04.2010.

(iii) Stricter pollution under control (PUC) norms for in-use vehicles have been implemented with effect from 01.10.2004.

(iv) The emission standards for industries have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(v) National Mission on Sustainable Habitat has been launched under the National Action Plan on Climate Change covering inter alia the transport sector.

(vi) Fuel quality in accordance with the roadmap of Auto Fuel Policy has been ensured across the country.